

THE GLEN ESTE GAZETTE

February 2009

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Message from the Principal . . .

I would like to share with you two initiatives that we are working on this school year as a staff at Glen Este Middle School.

Our first initiative, at the start of the year, was to establish routines in our day that incorporate best practice strategies and make them daily habits, ranging from the teacher greeting the students at the door to speaking to the learning goal for the day, multiple times during the lesson. Each week during team meetings we speak to these routines to keep everyone focused on what needs to occur. Additionally, Mrs. Leazer and I use a walk-through form to monitor each of the seven strategies.

The second initiative for GEMS this year is to design lessons at the appropriate level of rigor and to design the lesson in a way that makes the learning more relevant to the student. By relevance, I mean that the work the students are asked to do involves the students applying the knowledge they've gained, not just answering questions for the sake of earning a grade. Our teachers meet monthly by grade level and by department to share ideas for lessons keeping relevance at the forefront. We know that the more relevant an assignment is to a student, the more engaged they will be in their learning.

As Principal, my role is to establish a vision for what I want GEMS to look and feel like and to communicate that in a way that is embedded in our staff. I am reliant on their expertise in the subject matter and overall abilities in classroom instruction. I am very pleased with the commitment put forth by GEMS teachers towards our two initiatives, making this the most productive school year I've been part of during my ten years here at GEMS. I am confident that our focus and follow-through are making a difference for our students.

Kevin S. Thacker

Important Dates

February

- 11 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:30-8:00 p.m. (rescheduled from February 4)
- 12 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:30-8:00 p.m. (rescheduled from January 29)
- 12 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Library
- 12 Yearbook Sale Ends
- 13 NO SCHOOL, Mid-Winter Break
- 16 NO SCHOOL, President's Day
- 17 Intramural Soccer Begins, 2:15-4:00 p.m.
- 18 GEHS Small School Fair, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 19 AHS Small School Fair, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 24-26 Talent Show Auditions, 2:30-5:00 p.m.
- 27 Interims Sent Home w/Students

March

- 4 Washington, D.C. Info Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Gymnasium
- 5 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Library
- 24 3rd Quarter Grading Period Ends
- 27 NO SCHOOL, Teacher In-Service
- 30 Book Fair Begins
- 30 Report Cards Mailed Home

Small School Fairs Coming!

Glen Este High School Small School Fair
Wednesday, February 18
6:00-7:30 p.m. in the GEHS Gym

Amelia High School Small School Fair
Thursday, February 19
6:00-7:30 p.m. in the AHS Cafeteria

Attn: 7th Grade Students & Parents
Washington, D.C. Info Meeting
Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 p.m., Gym

Please plan to attend this meeting for information regarding this fall's Washington, D.C. class trip

SPORTS NEWS

Wrestling

The GEMS wrestlers attended the Fort Ancient Valley Conference league meet on Saturday, January 31. **Jonathon Kirschbaum** placed 1st, **Max Davis** placed 3rd, and **Austin Rowan** placed 5th. Also placing were **Sam Winter, Jordan Harris, and Blake Dalton**. Congratulations to everyone on a job well done!

Basketball

Tournament play begins Friday, February 6. Both the 7th and 8th grade girls will play at Amelia. The 7th grade boys begin Friday at Little Miami and the 8th grade team begins Saturday at Winton Woods.

Cheerleading

The 7th and 8th grade cheerleaders competed in a state-wide competition in Columbus on February 1 at Ohio State University. They received 4th place out of 9 teams in their division and brought home a nice trophy. Congratulations, girls!

Intramural Soccer

Intramural soccer will begin Monday, February 17 from 2:15-4:00 p.m. and run through Friday, March 6. Intramural soccer is open to grades 6, 7 and 8. Sign up early! Cost is only \$15.00. For more information you can call Mr. Mulvaney at 947-7717 between 11:50 a.m. and 12:40 p.m. or email him at mulvaney_r@westcler.org.

Bowling

The Cherry Grove Lanes winter session began on February 5. Spaces are still available for interested students! Call Cherry Grove Lanes for more information at 528-7888 or stop by the school office for a registration form.

Track News

Track is open to all 7th and 8th grade students. **The track season officially begins on March 9.** There will be a pre-season session for 7th grade students on February 23 and 25. The pre-season session for 8th grade students will be February 24 and 26. Conditioning will then begin on March 2 for everyone. All times are 2:30-4:00 p.m. Athletes **MUST** have a physical on file in order to participate. Physical forms are available in the office. Physical exams and emergency medical information are matters of state law. The coaches and athletic director are not free to make exceptions. Second quarter grade point averages must be 1.51 or higher to participate. The first home track meet for the season is the Polar Bear Meet on March 31. Volunteers will be needed. If interested, contact Michael Ball, Athletic Director, at 947-7710.

**Mid-Winter Break February 13
President's Day February 16
NO SCHOOL**

PTO NEWS

Next PTO Meeting:

Thursday, February 12, 6:30 p.m.

GEMS Library

THANK YOU

Thanks to GEMS Science team members that were kind enough to speak at our January PTO meeting. Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Jeffcott, Mrs. DiOrio, and Ms. Kinney spoke to the group about the current lessons being covered in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade science classes. It sounds like there are many exciting lessons planned for the coming months as well!

Fundraiser Update

The fall fundraiser (cookie dough sale) profit is around \$11,000. The intake from online sales is not included in this figure and will not be complete until the end of the school year. Prizes have been distributed. Congratulations to Mrs. Steven's 6th grade class, the classroom with the highest sale total. They will receive a lunch from Subway!

Stocking Raffle

The Third Annual Christmas Stocking Raffle was a success. There were many great stockings put together by the teaching teams. Six students won stocking and the PTO raised \$71.00 from this event.

Volunteers Needed

March 2-6: Trojan Dance ticket sales, 7th/8th grade lunch times.

March 6: Chaperones for Trojan Dance, 7-9 p.m., MPR

March 30-April 3: 6th Grade Dance ticket sales, 11:25-noon.

April 3: Chaperones for 6th Grade Dance, 2:30-4:30 p.m., MPR.

Visit www.gems-pto.org

to get all the latest on your GEMS PTO!

Attention: Parents

*If your income has changed
during these difficult economic times,
the Free and Reduced Lunch Program
is available to families for a 3 month period.
Pick up a form in the office
for parents to complete and return to school.*

**The GEMS Talent Show is Coming in March!
Talent Show Auditions February 24-25-26
From 2:30-5:00 p.m.
Sign Up Sheets Outside Chorus Room
More Info to Come Shortly!**
